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### **NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release**



**March 18, 2016**  
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### **NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL YOUTH INSTITUTE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) provides youth with an opportunity to explore the ag industry, discover potential ag-related careers and strengthen their appreciation for agriculture, the state's leading industry. Applications for the 2016 NAYI are now available from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA). Students interested in attending this summer's program have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to apply.

"Though agriculture is Nebraska's largest industry, there aren't nearly enough college graduates to fill open positions," said NDA Director Greg Ibach. "According to the USDA, nearly 60,000 high-skilled ag and related job openings are expected annually in the U.S., yet only 35,000 graduates are available to fill them. NAYI gives students time to network with current and future ag leaders and learn about career opportunities available in the ag industry. Students don't have to live on a farm or ranch to take advantage."

NAYI, a five-day summer program for current high school juniors and seniors, is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Institute will be held July 11-15, 2016, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus, and it features motivational speakers, discussion on agricultural issues and opportunities, a farm management game, a formal banquet and a dance.

NDA selects students to attend the Institute based on their leadership skills, interest and involvement in agriculture.

The Institute is coordinated by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC), which is comprised of 23 college students selected by NDA. The Council's purpose is to provide young Nebraskans with a better understanding of agriculture, including agricultural opportunities available to today's youth.

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NAYI applications are available online at <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi>. Those interested in applying can also get an application by contacting the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-6859 or by emailing [youth.council@nebraska.gov](mailto:youth.council@nebraska.gov).

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